

**Records of *Myrmecophilus acervorum* PANZER 1799 (Gryllidae, Saltatoria)
from an intermediate Bog**

Norbert Maczey

Abstract

The gryllid *Myrmecophilus acervorum* PANZER is recorded from a wetland habitat for the first time. In 2001 and 2002 four specimens were found in an intermediate bog called 'Maggelhansluch' southeast of Berlin (Brandenburg / Germany).

Zusammenfassung

In den Jahren 2001 und 2002 gelang der Nachweis von vier Exemplaren der Ameisengrille (*Myrmecophilus acervorum* PANZER) in einem Brandenburgischen Zwischenmoor (Maggelhans Luch) südöstlich von Berlin. Damit konnte die Art erstmalig in einem ausgesprochen nassem Lebensraum festgestellt werden.

Myrmecophilus acervorum is generally considered as a thermophilic species of open forests, gardens, dry grassland habitats and ruderal sites (DETZEL 1998, MAAS et al. 2002). Apparently the species is not yet known from wet habitats. The following notes give an account of the discovery of *M. acervorum* from one of the last remaining intermediate bogs of Northeast Germany.

During a monitoring project invertebrate samples have been taken from an intermediate bog southeast of Berlin (Germany) called 'Maggelhansluch'. The site has been divided by the motorway A10 into a southern and northern half for more than 70 years. The locality lies within the geographical region which accounts for most of the German or even European records of *M. acervorum* (MÖLLER & PRASSE 1991, MAAS et al. 2002). Invertebrate samples were taken from the bog by an adapted suction apparatus (leafblower) according to STEWART & WRIGHT (1995). Four of the total of 88 samples taken in 2000 and 2001 contained one specimen of *M. acervorum* each. Three of these specimens belong to the *forma minor* and one to the *forma major* according to HÖLLDOBLER (1947). The samples containing this species were taken on the 18th of July 2001, 29th of May 2002 and on the 25th of June 2002.

The four samples containing *M. acervorum* originate from three different sampling spots within the investigated area. They are all covered by degraded stages of the 'Sphagnetum magellanici Kästn., Flössn. et Uhlig 1933' partly already leading to the 'Carici canescentis-Agrostietum caninae Tx. 1937'. The dominant vascular plants are *Eriophorum vaginatum*, *E. angustifolium*, *Vaccinium oxycoccus*, *Andromeda polifolia* and *Molinia caerulea*. As well very typical on the

sampling areas is a strong upcoming of *Betula pubescens*. *M. acervorum* could not be found within the more intact open parts of the bog or the more eutrophic reedbeds, which occur in parts of the site.

In the sample localities, where *M. acervorum* was found, three ant species, *Lasius platythorax* SEIFERT and two *Myrmica* spp. (possibly *M. scabrinodis* NYLANDER and *M. sulcinodis* NYLANDER) were collected. To avoid flooding the antnests were located in the higher parts of tussocks from *Eriophorum vaginatum* and *Molinia caerulea*.

Author
Norbert Maczey
Am Pfahlweiher 20
53721 Siegburg
Email: norbertmaczey@compuserve.com

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